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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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How should Louisiana's coast be saved?

Public asked what to consider in comprehensive study

NEW ORLEANS – Preventing the loss of 1,000 square miles of coastal Louisiana, an area the size of Rhode Island, is the key objective of the most comprehensive study ever begun to rescue the Bayou State's valuable wetlands.

The Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Study is being conducted under an agreement of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. A total of six federal and three Louisiana agencies are taking part.

"We're just getting started, and now's the time for citizens to say what they want us to consider," said the Corps' Troy Constance, the study manager.

Citizens are invited to express themselves at any of six public scoping meetings scheduled April 15-24. All meetings begin at 7 p.m.:

Monday, April 15. Abbeville. LSU Agricultural Center, 105 West Port St.

Tuesday, April 16. Lake Charles. McNeese State University, Hardtner Hall, Stokes Auditorium, 550 Sale Rd.

Wednesday, April 17. Belle Chasse. Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23.

Thursday, April 18. Hammond. Southeastern Louisiana University, Room 133, University Center, 700 West University Ave.

Monday, April 22. Thibodaux. Peltier Park, 151 Peltier Park Dr.

Wednesday, April 24. Morgan City. Municipal Auditorium, 928 Myrtle St.

Significantly reducing Louisiana's future coastal land loss is expected to cost \$14 billion. Estimates are that land loss is 25 to 30 square miles a year, with more than one million acres lost over the last 60 years. The problem has already gotten much study.

“This is different from any other study,” Constance said. “It will be programmatic, comprehensively laying out, in medical terms, the ailment, the symptoms and the prescription. It will concentrate on big strategies, in contrast to small projects so far.”

The LCA Comprehensive Study is the short name for Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. It will build on previous studies and the lessons learned from Louisiana wetland restoration projects to date. In addition, the LCA Comprehensive Study will supplement the 1993 plan under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, or CWPPRA, whose funding made possible only relatively small projects.

The study will take the revised regional ecosystem strategies in the 1998 Coast 2050 Plan and develop them into projects for the creation of a programmatic, coast-wide, ecosystem restoration plan.

The LCA Comprehensive Study will also complement a February 2002 report of the Governor’s Committee on the Future of Coastal Louisiana, “Saving Coastal Louisiana: Recommendations for Implementing an Expanded Coastal Restoration Program.”

The [Public Notice](#) for the six scoping meetings lists the ecosystem strategies identified by Coast 2050 for each of four regions: (1) Pontchartrain, (2) Breton, Barataria and Mississippi River, (3) Terrebonne, Atchafalaya and Teche/Vermilion and (4) Calcasieu/Sabine and Mermentau.

“We request that citizens express their views on the scope of issues that they want considered in the environmental impact statement and to specify what they consider to be the ‘keystone’ strategy for each regional ecosystem,” said Dr. William Klein, a Corps biologist responsible for the study’s Programmatic, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

For questions or copies of the [Public Notice](#), contact: Dr. William P. Klein Jr., CEMVN-PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267; telephone 504-862-2540, or e-mail william.p.klein@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Questions may also be directed to: Troy Constance, study manager, CEMVN-PM-W, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267; telephone 504-862-2742; or e-mail troy.g.constance@mvn02.usace.army.mil